in the power sector. Also, 100% Foreign Direct Investment has been permitted in projects for electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

(b) and (c) The major road-blocks which are hindering private participation in power sector are as follows:

(i) Inability of SEBs and State Governments to provide an acceptable payment security. The revenues of the SEBs are not adequate to ensure payments to Independent Power Producers. This is due to skewed tariffs and poor collection efficiencies.

(ii) Delay in finalisation of various contracts such as PPA, Fuel Supply Agreement and Fuel Transportation Agreement acceptable to all the concerned parties. Protracted negotiations on fuel prices, liquidated charges/damages, risk covering clauses etc. have caused delays in achieving financial closure in many cases.

(iii) Court cases in the form of Public Interest Petitions etc.

(iv) Withdrawal by equity holders and EPC contractors.

(d) The initiatives taken by the Government as mentioned in reply to part (a), particularly regarding the reform and restructuring of power sector including SEB's, formulation of Central & State Regulatory Commissions, recognizing power trading as an independent activity etc. are expected to boost the confidence of the investors. Government has also been assisting to resolve issues coming in the way of the private sector power projects achieving financial closure. An Inter-Institutional Group (IIG) comprising senior representatives from the financial institutions as well as from the Ministry of Power, has been instrumental in facilitiating financial closure of 11 private power projects having a total capacity of over 4000 MW in the last one year.

Setting up of power projects in Assam

871. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up power projects in the State of Assam during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the project set up so far in the State;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the necessary steps taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The following projects have been commissioned/under construction in Assam:

Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
Commissioned	
Kopili Extension-II HEP, NEEPCO	25MW
Under Construction	
Karbi Langpi HEP, State Sector	100 MW

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened in the Ministry of Power. The Central Electricity Authority has a nodal officer for each project, both at the conception statge as well as during execution. In addition, regular in-depth review meetings are being organized in the Ministry of Power.

Funds for electrification of villages

872. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI RUNDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in the country during the last two years, till date;

(b) the funds, allocated by Government during the period and spent by each State, year-wise;

(c) the number of villages targeted to be electrified during the current financial year, till date State-wise,

(d) whether Government have set any target for completing rural electrification in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount earmarked by Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.